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BIG SCREEN TV OWNER TO BE SENTENCED--106 VICTIMS

SAN DIEGO CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CHALLENGE IS RETURNING 194 TVs & VCRs TO THEIR OWNERS

WHAT: John "Vinny" Johnson, owner of Big Screen TV of San Diego, will be sentenced on Thursday, February 27, in San Diego Superior Court. Johnson pleaded guilty to ten criminal counts that include grand theft, forgery, fraud, false advertising, misleading statements and failure to pay sales taxes. Victims are expected to attend the sentencing. The case came to the attention of the City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit after numerous complaints that San Diego Big Screen TV failed to return customer televisions and made faulty repairs at significant expense. The joint investigation involved the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair (BEAR), the Better Business Bureau, and the California Board of Equalization. The investigation also included an undercover sting operation that involved state investigators posing as consumers seeking electronic repairs from Johnson. The City Attorney's Office is seeking additional victims whose electronic devices were impounded in the prosecution of the case and wishes to reunite 194 TVs and VCRs with their owners. Please contact the City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Helpline at

619-533-5600. San Diego Deputy City Attorney Cindy Davis and Miles Bristow, Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair, will be available for media interviews after the sentencing. **WHEN: Thursday, February 27, 11 a.m.**

**WHERE: San Diego Superior Court, Judge Frank Brown, Department 23
220 Broadway, Downtown San Diego**